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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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SUBJECT: "FORTNIGHTLY FOOD-SHOPPING TIPS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Consumers' Counsel, A.A.A.

--ooOoo--

Tips for the housewife who plans the meals and buys food for the family are here again, coming direct from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The big news is about vegetables. You can expect to see more fresh vegetables on the market right along now. Many more vegetables will be for sale than the markets had last year at this time. Down South where vegetables grow at this time of year they've had some heavy rains recently which have caused some damage. But the rains haven't been a "drop in the bucket" compared to last year's freeze. You can expect to see more of almost every kind of vegetable except celery, cabbage, onions, sweetpotatoes and Florida lettuce.

Cabbage has been suffering lately from the bad weather, which has ruined about a fourth of the new crop. So this spring's supply of new cabbage will be the smallest since 1935.

But, you should be able to indulge in new green peas. Heavy shipments of green peas are coming in from California. The California crop is the largest on record. Not so many green peas coming from Florida and Texas. The bad weather practically ended shipments of green peas from these States, but the California crop is going strong.

Lots of potatoes, both new and old, are on the market right now. You can expect to have plenty of potatoes from now until June anyway. And potatoes are cheaper than a year ago. They probably won't go up much in price in the next few months.

From news of vegetables, let's go on to news of the fruit coming to market. Citrus fruits--that is, orange, grapefruit and lemons--will be more plentiful than they were last winter and spring. Apples also will be more plentiful. Larger supplies of both Florida and California oranges will be coming to market. Oranges and grapefruit will be cheaper than they were last spring. Grapefruit will be considerably lower in price than last year at this time.

Strawberries are in the headlines again. The strawberry crop in the South is slow this spring. Not nearly so many berries on the market this month as a year ago. But just wait until April! Then, the strawberries will be coming in thick and fast.

So much for fruit news. Now about meat. The meat situation remains about the same. Supplies of pork on the market are growing smaller. Not nearly so much pork for sale as last year. But your butcher will have more beef and lamb. Prices of all meats will continue to be higher than they were a year ago.

As for eggs, the predictions are that for the rest of 1941 supplies of eggs will be smaller than last year. Of course, more eggs will be coming on the market until the peak in April. But that is just the seasonal rise. Prices of eggs up to April won't go down as much as they usually do at this time of year.

This year promises a bountiful supply of milk and dairy products. Milk production on February first, the last figure I have, is larger than last year and a record for the date. All the signs point to lots of milk for the next few months. In spite of this heavy production of milk, the price of butter is likely to be higher than last year. People have more

money to spend. They are buying more butter. Therefore, butter prices are up. That's just the way things seem to go in this world. When people have less money to spend on meat and butter, the prices go down. When incomes pick up, the price of these foods usually picks up, too.

The last news is about rice. Not quite so much rice coming to market these days as a year ago. The reason is that this country is exporting more rice. The export of most other agricultural products has gone down since the outbreak of the war. But rice exports have increased. One reason is that Cuba is buying American rice instead of Oriental rice. The wholesale price of rice has gone up and is higher than last year.

That's all the tips for the food-shopper today. More will be coming in in a couple of weeks.

